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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN LYNCHBURG**

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program is a comprehensive national program for addressing the urban sources of stormwater discharges that adversely affect the quality of our nation's waters. Lynchburg received its permit on March 27, 2003.

Stormwater pollution is a challenging water quality problem. Unlike pollution from industry or sewage treatment facilities, which is caused by a discrete number of sources, stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere. Rainwater and snowmelt run off streets, lawns, farms, and construction and industrial sites and pick up fertilizers, dirt, pesticides, oil and grease, and many other pollutants on the way to our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

Stormwater runoff is our most common cause of water pollution. Because stormwater pollution is caused by so many different activities, traditional regulatory controls are ineffective.

Education and outreach are key components to any successful stormwater program.

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### ***What is stormwater runoff?***

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground.

Impervious surfaces like driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, rooftops, and streets reduce the ability of stormwater to naturally soak into the ground.

### ***Why is stormwater runoff a problem?***

Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Look for information in the coming months about what the City of Lynchburg is doing to reduce stormwater pollution and what you can do to minimize the impacts of everyday activities on water quality in our streams and rivers. For additional information contact the City's department of Engineering at 455-3950.

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